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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCHOOLS,

January 30th, 1893.

In the Spring of the year three circumstances contributed to effect considerable changes in the organization of the Schools of the Museum. Early in March the death of Mr. Tuckerman, who had for five years been their manager, necessitated a change in the *personnel* of the administration. About the same time came the munificent offer of Mrs. and Miss Lazarus to found a Traveling Scholarship for male students of painting in the Schools of the Museum. Early in the year this Committee was itself reorganized and enlarged, with a view to a fuller discussion of the situation thus created, and to a reconsideration of the whole question of the duty of the Museum in the matter of education, and the formation of a consistent and defensible policy in the discharge of this duty.

The Committee found that the work done in the Museum Schools had, since they were first established, gradually ceased to have any relation to the Museum itself. They had ceased to make any use of the collections, as apparatus of education in art, and consisted for the most part of classes in drawing and painting such as could just as well have been established anywhere else. Moreover, this instruction was mostly of an elementary character, and the most advanced classes were composed entirely of women, so that suitable candidates for the Lazarus Scholarship could not be looked for among them. The whole income from the endowment of the schools, amounting to \$4,000 a year, was spent in maintaining these classes, the fees for instruction being hardly more than nominal, while the collections of the Museum, formed largely for the purpose of educating both the public and the artistic community in matters of art, remained without any organized employment.

In view of these facts the Committee, on the 16th of May, presented a report, the substance of which was embodied in a resolution adopted on the same day by the Trustees. In this resolution the Trustees recognized that it is "their main office in the matter of education to make the Museum itself intelligible and instructive, and approve the organization in the schools of the Museum of special classes for the study of special kinds of objects, and of the employment from time to time of experts in the different matters illustrated in these collections, to give public lectures upon them, so far as the funds available for the support of the schools may permit."

In pursuance of the policy thus laid down, the Committee reorganized the instruction in Architecture, restricting it entirely to Architectural Draughtsmanship, with a view to the systematic study of the Willard Collection of Architectural Casts and Models. This class is now in excellent condition, and has been placed in such relations with the architectural instruction given at Columbia College as to fill an important place, hitherto unoccupied, and to supply a want keenly felt by the profession.

The Committee then proceeded to arrange for a special class of advanced students, so organized as at the same time to profit to the utmost by the works of art collected in the Museum galleries, and to furnish suitable candidates, at the conclusion of their studies, for the Lazarus Scholarship. This somewhat novel scheme was not adopted until after consultation with a considerable number of the most eminent of our artists, who gave a cordial and emphatic commendation, not only to the general policy of the Committee, but to their selection of Mr. John LaFarge to take charge of the class. The novelty of the undertaking, the fact that there are not any great number of young men who are at the same time sufficiently skillful to enter upon such studies to advantage and sufficiently at leisure to pursue them, together with some interruptions occasioned by Mr. LaFarge's ill-health, have delayed the actual prosecution of this work until the present time. But it is now fairly on its feet, and the result will be awaited with interest.

Meanwhile, as proposed in their report of the 16th of May, the Committee have continued the classes in Painting and Sculpture, believing that though not intimately related to the Museum and its work, they are doing work excellent of its kind, and that they could probably be made self-supporting, calling upon the Museum only for house-room, which the Museum could easily supply. The endowments could then be released for purposes more germane to the Museum's proper functions.

The financial statement herewith submitted shows that for the present year these expectations will not be fully met, and that, as in previous years, the Schools' accounts will show a deficit. But these classes are in much better shape, and are doing much better work, than hitherto; their cost is also greatly diminished; and as they are becoming better known they are growing in public favor. A hundred and thirty-seven students are already enrolled, many of whom, however, have entered late in the year. If the next year the number should rise to one hundred and forty, and they should pay a fee of \$40.00 (instead of \$30.00 as now), there would be a handsome surplus to use for the extension of strictly Museum work. This seems a not unreasonable expectation, as other schools of good reputation are greatly overcrowded.

The classes opened for the season of 1892 and 1893 on the 4th day of October last; and the number of students has gradually increased until the present time. The strength of the schools on January 31st, 1892, and at the present time, is as follows:

	1892.	1893.
Preparatory.....	31	53
Antique.....	58	24
Life.....	17	22
Still Life.....	11	11
Architecture.....	21	24
Modelling.....	4	3
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	142	137

Of the students present in the schools some have been admitted for a less period than the entire season, and are charged

proportionate rates. It was found necessary to adopt this plan by reason of the many applications made by old scholars and others, who desired to study for short periods. Many of these are from distant places, and were unable to say how long they could remain in the city.

The studio rented by the Committee, and occupied by the life and still-life classes, is much appreciated by the students.

Students desirous of studying in two classes are permitted to do so on payment of an extra fee equal to one-half of the regular fee. This rule does not apply to members of the Architectural Class, who are also receiving instruction in the Preparatory Antique Class, or students who are temporarily transferred from one class to another by the direction of the instructors.

The Architectural Class has received a number of architectural drawings and designs, made by the late Mr. Henry O. Avery, and presented to the school by his father. Mr. Avery has also given some very useful and convenient pieces of furniture and a number of valuable books.

SCHOOLS COMMITTEE,

D. O. MILLS, *Chairman.*